

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-9 are all the claims pending in the application. Previously, claims 1, 3-6, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Tang *et al.* (U.S. Patent No.: 6,160,629), hereinafter referred to as Tang. Also, claims 2, 7, and 9 were previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tang in combination with Uematsu (U.S. Patent No.: 5,562,351). The Examiner, however, found the arguments with respect to claims 2, 7, and 9 filed in the Amendment of January 22, 2004, to be persuasive, and therefore the Examiner withdrew some of the previous rejections and issued the present non-final Office Action. *See Response to Arguments section of the present Office Action.*

In the present Office Action, claims 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Tang. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tang in combination with Orr *et al.* (U.S. Patent No.: 4,768,767).

§102(e) Rejections (Tang) - Claims 6 and 8

Claims 6 and 8 are rejected for the reasons set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the present Office Action.

With respect to independent claim 6, Applicant amends this claim, as indicated, and submits that the applied reference, Tang, does not teach or suggest at least “requesting a user to input a secret code only after the print type information is set to be confidential printing,” as recited in amended claim 6. That is, Tang only shows a window in which a private job option is selectable in the same display that a Personal Identification Number (PIN) is required. *See, for example, Fig. 4(e).* However, Tang does not show that a request is made of a user to input a secret code only after the print type information is set to be confidential printing. Therefore, at

least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that independent claim 6 is patentably distinguishable over Tang.

Applicant amends claim 8 similar to the amendment to claim 6, and submits that claim 8 is patentable for reasons similar to those set forth above to claim 6.

§103(a) Rejections (Tang/Orr) - Claims 1, 3-5, 7, and 9

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, and 9 are rejected for the reasons set forth on pages 4-7 of the present Office Action. The Examiner alleges that Tang teaches all of the limitations of claim 1, except the Examiner acknowledges that Tang does not teach “wherein the printer controller controls the sound output device to sound the alarm when confidential print data to be printed is received,” as described in claim 1. The Examiner, however, alleges that Orr makes up for the deficiencies of Tang.

Specifically, the Examiner alleges, with respect to Orr:

Orr teaches the collator electronics checks if an END of JOB message was received, then will signal the printer with a status message (end of job) and turn on an alarm buzzer (col. 10, lines 21-25). Therefore, It would have been obvious to modify the controller of Tang for reading the confidential data from the received print job and controlling the alarm buzzer for notice.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the printer of Tang in order to have an alarm unit for sounding, as taught by Orr, when the received print data is the confidential print data. The suggestion for modifying the printer of Tang can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by Orr because the modified printer of Tang would be desirable when its printer controller has a function for informing the user a message through the buzzer if the confidential print data is received. Therefore, any of the walkup users would easily know the confidential print jobs those are received by the shared printer in the network.

In response, contrary to the Examiner's assertions, Applicant submits that it would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the printer of Tang to arrive at the present invention, as recited in claim 1, based on the alarm unit taught by Orr. First, the alarm buzzer of Orr relates to sounding an alarm when the end of a print job is reached. Differently, the present invention, as recited in claim 1, is directed to sounding an alarm when confidential print data to be printed is received. Thus, one skilled in the art would not have modified the printer of Tang based on the "ENDOFJOB" alarm system taught by Orr, to arrive at the present invention, as recited in claim 1. That is, the Examiner has apparently used impermissible hindsight reasoning in coming to his conclusions, as neither Tang nor Orr teaches or suggests "wherein the printer controller controls the sound output device to sound the alarm when confidential print data to be printed is received" and, at least based on the foregoing, one skilled in the art would not have modified Tang based on Orr to arrive at the present invention, as recited in claim 1.

Further, even if, *assuming arguendo*, it would be desirable for a printer controller to inform a user through use of a buzzer if confidential print data is received (as the Examiner alleges), one skilled in the art would not have been led, in view of Tang and Orr, to have a printer comprising a printer controller that controls the sound output advice to sound the alarm when confidential print data to be printed is received. As indicated above, neither of the applied references teach or suggest this specific claimed feature. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the applied references, either alone or in combination.

Applicant submits that independent claim 4 is patentable at least for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 1. Applicant submits that dependent claims 3 and 5

are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from independent claims 1 and 4, respectively.

With respect to dependent claim 7, Applicant submits that this claim is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 6. Orr does not make up for the deficiencies of Tang. Further, Applicant submits that claim 7 is patentable at least for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 1.

With respect to claim 9, Applicant amends this claim in independent form, as indicated herein, and submits that claim 9 is patentable at least for reasons similar for those set forth above with respect to claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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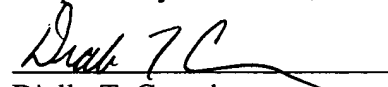
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Respectfully submitted,


Diallo T. Crenshaw
Registration No. 52,778

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